SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

The PRG 6-point proposal and the Saigon draft preliminary agreement

AT the 8th session of the Celle Saint Cloud Consultative Conference, on April 25, 1973, that is two days before the 90-day dead-line, the PRG put forth the following 6-point proposal :

1 — Immediate cessation of all hostilities. Full implementation of all the provisions concerning a stable cease-fire without limit of time with a view to a durable peace in South Viet Nam ;

2 — Immediate return of all the civilian Vietnamese personnel captured and held in South Viet Nam ;

3 — Immediate and full ensurance of the South Vietnamese people's democratic freedoms ;

4 — Formation of the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord ;

5 — Organization of free and democratic elections in South Viet Nam ;

6 — Settlement of the issue of the Vietnamese armed forces in South Viet Nam.

The first four points were to be enforced immediately in their listing order. However as soon as one of them had been agreed to, it could be at once put into effect pending agreement on the others.

Their full enforcement would be the basis for the settlement of points 5 and 6.

The whole offer was consonant with both the spirit and letter of the Paris Agreement and with the requirements of the prevailing juncture in South Viet Nam, where the ceasefire had not been implemented by the Saigon regime and none of the democratic freedoms provided for in Article 11 had been ensured in the Saigon-controlled areas. Following heated discussions at the Two-Party Joint Military Commission, the Saigon authorities had to give in principle their consent to the return of a first batch of civilian Vietnamese personnel captured and still detained in its jails. But even this has been done by dribblets. They want to see in the National Conncil of National Reconciliation and Concord only an electoral organism and not one with extensive powers and with "the task of promoting the two South Vietnamese parties' implementation of this Agreement, achievement of national reconciliation and concord and ensurance of democratic liberties," as explicitly stipulated in Article 12 (b) of the Agreement.

Such a situation, created by Saigon bad faith and US — Saigon acts of systematic sabotage of the Agreement, is a very explosive one, fraught with unforeseeable consequences and calls for an instant solution.

The PRG 6-point plan opens the way to a prompt settlement of the South Viet Nam question, which meets the South Vietnamese people's aspirations and conforms to the stipulations of the Paris Agreement and Act. It is consistent with the expectations of the peace-loving peoples of the world and of the American people unwilling to be dragged into a new costly and inglorious military adventure.

But not only did the Saigon delegation reject it but it even made a counter-proposal under the form of a draft preliminary accord to be signed on April 27, 1973. The latter's 6 chapters and 10 articles reflected the same feeling and the same objectives as the unacceptable agenda tabled by the Saigon representatives first at the opening session of the Conference, then in a revised version at its 6th meeting. The draft accord provided for the signing of a final and global agreement on the internal problems of South Viet Nam within 30 days at the latest, and the holding of general elections on the 120th day following the conclusion of the draft preliminary accord, which included even a time-table where D-day (day of the signing of the accord) would be April 27, 1973, D-day + 30 May 27, 1973 and D-day + 120 Sunday August 26, 1973.

There was nowhere any reference to Saigon's implementation of the cease-fire nor to its release of all the captured civilian Vietnamese personnel nor to the achievement of national reconciliation and concord. Instead the Council of the same name was only to meet on D-day + 60, i. e. on June 26, 1973, after appointment by both sides of their respective delegates, under Article 5 of the Saigon project which made it clear that "each South Vietnamese party shall name its own delegation, the composition of the remaining one will be defined by consent of both parties."

As regards the democratic liberties mentioned in Article 11 of the Paris Agreement, the Saigon draft's last but one article N° 9 put forth the following :

"With the signing of the final and global Accord and concurrently with the correct execution of Articles 2 and 7, Chapter III of the January 27, 1973 Paris Agreement on Ending the War and parallel to the withdrawal of non-South Vietnamese armed forces referred to in Article 8, the two South Vietnamese parties shall cancel the wartime restrictions on the democratic liberties listed in Article 11 of the January 27, 1973 Paris Agreement."

This skilfully worded and highly ambiguous article 9 of the Saigon proposal intimated that the South Vietnamese would be granted democratic freedoms only on three conditions :

1. Signing of a final and global arrangement on South Viet Nam's internal question, on US-Saigon terms ;

2. "Correct" execution of Articles 2 and 7 of the Paris Agreement also in US way, that is while recon flights over the DRVN, suspension of US mine-clearing operations which had hardly begun and unhindered transfer of US armaments from Japan to Saigon-ruled zone continue ;

3. Withdrawal of non-South Vietnamese armed forces, i. e. the so-called North Vietnamese troops in South Viet Nam. It is to be pointed out that neither Article 8 nor any other provisions of the Paris Agreement has made any mention of non-South Vietnamese armed forces. What is at the back of Saigon's head is simply the departure of the PLAF from South Viet Nam to make room for US-paid and officered Saigon armies.

In other words, in return for democratic freedoms our fellow-countrymen must bow to the law of the US aggressors and their hirelings and be deprived of their own armed forces, which is simply unacceptable.

Thus, the Saigon regime would like to hold general elections without democratic liberties, without substantial releases of Saigon captured and held civilian Vietnamese personnel, without truly national reconciliation and concord and an effective cease-fire, and with Saigon-troops kept on a war footing and carrying on land-grabbing operations and accelerated "pacification" at all costs to ensure the enforcement of Thieu's fascist constitution and infamous laws and decrees-laws.

Such elections held under military pressure and on the sly would only be bloody farces, re-acting the 1967 presidential election and the October 3, 1971 one-man race.

Their aim, according the Saigon draft article 3, would be to set up "a representative body of the South Vietnamese to decide their political future."

The Saigon stratagem was a bit transparent : with its Constitution still in force, it would be free to doctor the results of the polls in the areas controlled by its armed force and militarized police.

There could not be a more flagrant breach of the Paris Agreement.

Remarkably enough, the Saigon plan dwelled particularly on the withdrawal of the so-called North Vietnamese troops, already discarded by the US and Saigon delegations during the lengthy and tough open and secret talks in Paris. As a matter of fact, in South Viet Nam, there have always been two Vietnamese armies only : the PLAF under the PRG command and the mercenary army in the US-Saigon service. Each Vietnamese has the sacred right and duty to defend his fatherland and resist foreign aggression and oppose high treason anywhere in the national territory. It is absolutely ludicrous to make a difference between the South Viet Nam PLAF and non-South Vietnamese troops, on a birth place basis.

Another proposition of the Saigon administration did not hold water either : a strength of Saigon troops equal to that of the so-called non-South Vietnamese soldiers would be demobilized, while the total of Saigon soldiery is in the region of one million two hundred thousand, or many times the PLAF. Moreover, the demobbed men would be immediately incorporated in the "people's self-defence" and other US-paid and armed paramilitary units.

Saigon has raised a ballyhoo about its overture with the watchword : "The sooner the elections, the quicker the peace" and the assurance that anyhow the general elections would be held on August 20, 1973. In doing so, it has only betrayed its dark intention not to cease fire before the elections it is hatching and to organize them unilaterally on a date it has itself fixed.

(*Continued on page 6*)

U.S. SLANDERS BARED

FOR years the White House has been distorting the truth about the treatment given US captured military personnel by the Vietnamese. Recently as soon as the last American captive was released, a smear campaign has been initiated against the DRVN by the Washington rulers.

On orders from the White House and the Pentagon, a number of hand-picked US military returnees held in haste press conferences in which they gave a completely false picture of their stay in DRVN detention camps. They shamelessly declared that US war prisoners detained in North Viet Nam were dealt with the utmost brutality, that no medical care was ever supplied to them, etc.

Commander Jeremiah Delton, in his March 30 press conference in the United States, said that he had been put to tortures many times, once for three days and nights on end, and left without food and drink, then again beaten up and tortured most horribly.

But what was the truth? On May 2, 1966, nearly one year after his capture, this same Commander declared to an Australian and a Chilean journalists whom he was allowed to meet: "I was given adequate and good, I can say, very good food and drink. I was treated with generosity although I was a criminal."

Lieutenant Commander Richard Allen Stretton also met correspondents on March 29, at the White House and Pentagon's instigation. Lost to all sense of shame, he had the cheek to declare that during his detention in North Viet Nam he was tortured and ill-treated, and was burnt with cigarette butts, etc. But what had he said at the time of his stay in "Hanoi Hilton", when answering questions from foreign journalists? He repeated time and again into the tape recorder of a *Prensa Latina* correspondent: "If I were in the United States, I would have taken part it the campaign for an immediate end to the hostilities in Viet Nam."

Now that they have been back in the United States, following their release by DRVN authorities, those US militarymen obeying instructions from the White House and the Pentagon, are deliberately and wilfully defaming Vietnamese generosity. No doubt Nixon and Co's deception and impudence have reached a peak and that their slandering talent has been made a State policy.

What are they aiming at? Are they trying to whip up an anti-Viet Nam feeling among the American people with a view to deceiving and placating the US progressives angered by their own inhumane and piratical manoeuvres? Are they endeavouring to make people forget about their own heinous crimes in both zones of Viet Nam, the most outstanding ones being the Ba Lang An and My Lai massacres and the extermination bombings of Bach Mai Hospital and Kham Thien Street, which until now are still remembered with horror by US progressives and the world peoples? Isn't this base campaign of defamation and calumny intended to shore up the Nguyen Van Thieu client regime whose criminal treatment of military and civilian personnel captured by it has been under searing fire from all quarters?

But no matter what slanders poured out by Nixon and his acolytes, they will not be able to make white black. The long-standing humanitarian policy of the Vietnamese people, had been applied to puppet and foreign military personnel captured in the first war of resistance. So was it to US captured militarymen even though the latter owed blood debts to our people. They were given adequate food and accommodation, were allowed to organize their own entertainment and recreation and to receive letters and parcels from their families on holy days in accordance with US habits and customs.

Many American and foreign visitors and even US captured militarymen had to recognize our people's leniency.

On Aug. 3, 1968, Frederic Low, released on July 18, 1968 was reported by *AFP* as declaring in the United States: "In Hanoi were treated very humanely; the North Vietnamese were very decent."

In August 1972, Mr Ramsey Clark, former US Alforney General, after visiting a detention camp reserved to US pilots, told members of the International Commission of Inquiry: The POW's living conditions in the camp could not be better. He was especially impressed by the sanitary conditions there (*AFP*). US Colonel John Ott, in charge of the Clark Hospital and responsible for the reception of the returnees, said that they were in good health and that their captors had given them good care and adequate food. The physicians in this hospital held in respect the North Vietnamese surgeons who had attended to wounded POWs in a very efficient manner. One could not do better (*UPI*, Feb. 18, 1973).

USAF Colonel Walter Wilbur has raised his voice against the provocative fabrications of the White House and the Pentagon. He said: "I was not tortured or beaten and have never seen or heard anyone of my colleagues being tortured during my five years of detention in Hanoi Hilton" (*AFP*, April 6, 1973).

In an interview with *NBC*, Miss Jane Fonda was reported by *AP* as saying on April 6, 1973: "I suppose any prisoner who says that he was tortured, that that is the North Vietnamese's policy, which is a systematic one, only tells a lie." She said that what is commonly given her to see is the horrific treatment of Vietnamese POW's by the Saigon regime; on their release those POWs looked very ill and—not healthy as American POW's. The Oscar winner added that tortured men could not get out of their planes as nimbly as US POWs did at Clark Air Base, to greet their officers and embrace their wives. They looked rather like foot-ball teamsters, she said.

Are the White House and the Pentagon not aware of such facts? Then why all this attempt of theirs, to present American POWs as victims of an "atrocious treatment"? No doubt they wanted to rouse US public opinion against our people, and divert its attention from the systematic violations of the most important provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam by the US government and Saigon administration, in the hope of stemming the US and world people's drive for full observance and implementation of the Agreement by the US and Saigon sides.

But no trick of Nixon and his ilk can deceive the world's peoples: the US president is only too well known not only in Viet Nam and America, but also in the five continents, for his falsehoods.

About the return of captured Vietnamese civilian personnel

MAJOR-GENERAL Hoang Anh Tuan, Deputy-Head of the Military Delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in the Two-Party Central Joint Military Commission, on April 26, met Ambassador H. E. Dharsono, Head of the Indonesian Delegation, Chairman of the International Commission of Control and Supervision, to inform him of the implementation of the provision of the Paris Agreement concerning the return of captured Vietnamese civilian personnel.

General Hoang Anh Tuan pointed out:

Within 90 days of the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the RSVN PRG Military Delegation has on 20 occasions brought this question for discussion at the meetings of head delegates and the four-party joint military sub-commission and the two-party JMC. But little progress has been made since. This is because the Saigon administration has evaded and delayed the return of the civilian personnel.

Hoang Anh Tuan made known that the Saigon administration still detained hundreds of thousands of patriots, but they handed to the PRG the list of only 5,081 persons. They continue to torture the detainees in more than 1,000 prisons in South Viet Nam. They are secretly eliminating detained patriots, mixing up the prisoners and changing the files of the political prisoners into common law prisoners. They also declared the release of prisoners, which is in fact only a change in the form of detention.

Reaffirming once again the goodwill of the RSVN PRG in the implementation of the agreement and the aspiration of the captured civilian personnel of both parties to quickly reunite with their families, Major-General Hoang Anh Tuan said: The RSVN PRG side has informed the other side of the civilian personnel to be returned and repeatedly supplemented their lists and on April 20 announced a concrete plan for the return of all the civilian detainees within the 90-day time-limit.

But the representative of the Saigon administration refused to enter into substantial discussion. In face of the strong pressure of public opinion at home and abroad and the fair and logical proposal of the RSVN PRG side, the representative of the Saigon administration on April 24 announced that they would return 750 persons of the PRG and claimed that this was an unilateral act of goodwill.

Major-General Hoang Anh Tuan drew the IC's attention to the fact that the situation remained very serious because the Saigon administration side had not changed its attitude and still refused to honour its commitment of returning all detained civilian personnel and because hundreds of thousands of prisoners were languishing in the inhuman prisons of the Saigon administration.

The Major-General expressed his hope that the IC would watch the situation closely and in keeping with its responsibility would urge the Saigon administration side to scrupulously discharge its obligation of returning all the civilian personnel under its detention.

Ambassador H.E. Dharsono expressed the concern of the IC over this problem. He pointed out that there was no reason to delay the return of all the detained civilian personnel and promised to discuss this problem in the International Commission.

Major-General Hoang Anh Tuan expressed his thanks to Ambassador H. E. Dharsono and his hope that the IC would make an active contribution to stepping up the implementation of the provisions concerning the return of civilian personnel.

in the liberated areas

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF QUANG TRI MARKED

ON May 1st, nearly 7,000 cadres and people in Quang Tri province held a rally at a place north of Dong Ha town to celebrate the first anniversary of the liberation of Quang Tri and the International Labour Day.

Among those attending the meeting were Professor Ton That Duong Ky, Secretary General of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces; Mme Van Trang, Deputy Secretary General of the Alliance Committee for Saigon-Cho Lon-Gia Dinh; and Professor Le Van Hao, Chairman of the Alliance Committee for Hue city, now on a visit to Quang Tri.

After the opening speech by Le Xich, Chairman of the Provincial Committee of the National Front for Liberation, Le San, Chairman of the People's Revolutionary Committee in the province, delivered his speech reviewing the great achievements of the armed forces and people of Quang Tri since liberation.

The participants adopted a message addressed to the Central Committee of the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam "expressing their determination to struggle to preserve peace, to urge serious implementation of the Paris Agreement by the other side and to build a firm liberated zone in order to make a worthy contribution to the common struggle of the entire people for independence, democracy, peace and national concord, and the peaceful reunification of the country."

The meeting wound up with a parade of the local liberation armed forces and people.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL TRAN VAN TRA VISITS LIBERATION ARMY UNITS IN QUANG TRI

LIEUTENANT-General Tran Van Tra on April 28 visited various units of the infantry, engineering, artillery, transport, and signal services of the liberation army in Quang Tri province.

Lieutenant-General Tran Van Tra was accompanied by representatives of the command in the area.

He highly praised the combatants in Quang Tri for their exploits in the past year, their strict observance of the ceasefire order and their firm defence of the liberated area.

Turning to the present situation, he said:

"The Paris Agreement on Viet Nam is a very great success of our people. Peace has been restored, but not yet consolidated. US imperialism has not yet renounced its scheme to maintain neocolonialism in South Viet Nam, and perpetuate the partition of our country. The US and the Saigon administration are cynically and systematically violating important provisions of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam.

In the new situation, our people's armed forces must resolutely defend the successes already recorded to preserve peace, and make the other side guarantee democratic liberties and achieve national concord.

The liberation forces must actively contribute to the building of a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic and prosperous South Viet Nam, and the ultimate peaceful reunification of the Fatherland."

CHANGES IN THE RICEFIELDS

THOUGH peace has not been fully restored with the signing of the Paris Agreement, many changes have taken place in the South Viet Nam ricefields.

An ebullient movement of emulation in production has been in full swing everywhere. The people living in the liberated areas and the returnees from Saigon "strategic hamlets" or other detention camps have joined efforts.

Filling up bomb craters and digging irrigation ditches was the main occupation of the peasants. In Gio Linh district, Quang Tri province, alone, the people had to fill up hundreds of thousands of bomb craters before they could plough their ricefields. The inhabitants in three villages of Cam Lo district, same province, cut dozens of miles of canals for their crop-lands. The people in other places, particularly in highlands and mountain areas have repaired many water conservancy works and irrigation systems for tens of thousands of hectares of arable land.

With their repaired and newly-built irrigation works, the people in various places have brought back under cultivation an important amount of fallow land and reclaimed new fields. In Soc Trang and Bac Lieu provinces, the peasants have tilled over one hundred thousand hectares of crop-land, including over 2,000 hectares of former fallow land. Besides, they have grown early rice on nearly 6,000 hectares. In Ca Mau province, the peasants farmed 85,000 hectares of ricefields, 1,250 hectares of crop-land and some 30,000 hectares of former fallow-land.

New farming techniques to increase the yield of early rice and crops, including selection of high yield grains and use of agricultural machines have been widely disseminated in the liberated areas.

On the basis of development of agricultural production, the people of Quang Da, Tra Vinh, Ca Mau, Soc Trang, Bac Lieu, Vinh Long, Rach Gia and Can Tho provinces have gone in for other trades such as breeding, fishing, production of salt, manufacture of rattan articles, hats and others. The population of a number of places have launched movements of afforestation, fruit trees planting as in Quang Tri province, of rehabilitation of orchards ravaged by the enemy as in Ben Tre, Vinh Long, My Tho and Sa Dec provinces.

The greatest feature of the emulation movement to restore and develop production, has been the sense of solidarity and mutual help between the peasants living in the liberated areas and the people who had broken away from the Saigon regime's "strategic hamlets" and returned to their native places. In many villages, mutual help teams, exchange labour teams and other forms of collective work have been organized. Thanks to this, the peasants have solved their shortage of manpower during harvest time. Besides, the people have shared seeds and funds. In Ca Mau province, the former inhabitants of the liberated areas gave the returnees from "strategic hamlets" nealy 1,000 work-days, 8 tons of rice seeds, 30 tons of rice and 3 million Saigon piasters.

An important factor in the rehabilitation and development of production in the liberated areas at present has been the assistance of the revolutionary administration and guidance of the Liberation Peasant's Association. The revolutionary administration and the Association have assigned technicians and agricultural experts to various localities to assist the peasants with new techniques. The revolutionary administration also lends money to them, particularly to the returnees from "strategic hamlets" to buy agricultural implements. It has distributed land to them. In Kien Phong and Kien Tuong provinces, returnees from "strategic hamlets" received over 4,000 hectares of ricefields from the revolutionary administration.

In Soc Trang, Bac Lieu, Ca Mau and My Tho provinces, the revolutionary administration and the Liberation Peasants' Association held joint meetings to review their activities on agricultural production in the past few months, draw experience and work out the line and tasks for the period to come to push ahead agricultural production, raise the productivity of tree planting and continuously improve the peasants' living conditions.

"Faced with the unbearable and irrefutable reality evidenced by multiple documents, written and verbal, and pertinent photographs, we can no longer contain our indignation and disgust.

In South Viet Nam, women and men confined for years past to Poulo Condor's tiger cages today are crawling on their hands, while others are dying off in narrow cells built by US experts. Entire families are arrested for the simple reason that one of their members is a suspect. Women and men are thrown into prisons, tortured and debased.

Three months after the signing of the cease-fire agreement, 200,000 political detainees remain in prisons, penitentiaries, big camps and numerous detention centres in provinces, districts and communes.

Human dignity is trampled upon, all freedom abolished, and all political opposition to the dictatorship, branded as a crime of common law. An exceptional legislative arsenal, irreconciliable with the letter and spirit of the Paris Agreement, remains in power and allows terrorism to be established as a governmental method.

APPEAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SOUTH VIET NAM POLITICAL PRISONERS' RETURN

The US and the Saigon administration, showing utter contempt for public opinion, simply deny this reality and refuse all control.

We call on all organisations, parties and movements concerned with human dignity to realize this tragic problem and join us in making known to public opinion all the crimes that have been hushed up, and in denouncing the concentration camps maintained in South Viet Nam by the United States Government.

This is not only a humanitarian problem but also a political problem which touches on peace and war. It stems from the violation of the peace agreement; it shows that foreign interferences are continuing, and that there is the will to save at all costs the Saigon administration and to prevent free elections, thus blocking the peaceful reunification of the country.

Without the liberation of the political prisoners, there can be no democratic liberties, no national reconciliation, and no self-determination. The hidden war which is going on against the Vietnamese people risks breaking out into an open war again, and Cambodia is there to prove it. Everywhere, it is the same weapons, the same aircraft and the same foreign interference. The liberation of political prisoners is, therefore, the condition for the materialization of the hope of peace. After so much suffering of the Vietnamese people, we cannot let the latter and the world be deprived of a peace and a freedom which conform to the rights and wishes of all mankind."

What do they think about it?

Aged people and little children in Thieu's jails

Our infirmary has just had the honour of receiving detainees released from US-Thieu prisons. Their poor health and their preliminary diagnoses spell out the inhuman treatment inflicted by the Saigon administration on these patriots confined either in "tiger cages", "cow stables," "solitary cells" and "isolation wards."

When we took over the first batch, we could not suppress our tears, at the sight of Hoang Van N., 34, with his two legs paralysed, an arm maimed and deep scars all over his body. The injury in his spine had caused ulcers at his back and sides. He had lost all retention. Because of lack of medical attention, the urine stored for a long time in his bladder had formed calculi and he had been used as a guinea-pig and had undergone a surgical operation to get rid of the calculi without being given any medicine. As a fistula had developed, the urine flowed on the ulcers and gave him great pains for three long years. Transferred from one hospital to another in various prisons, even where there were "American surgeons" he received no care. All he wanted was a rubber pipe, but this need of his had never been met. Arriving in the liberated zone he was but a stinking bag of bones. We immediately washed him and gave him what he had not obtained for three years: the rubber pipe.

Immdiately his fever abated and he felt much more comfortable; in his neat sick bed, he began talking merrily to us.

Another painful case was that of Tran Ngoc X., a native of Hai Lang, Quang Tri province. He had two legs and one arm amputated by the enemy. His legs had been cut so close that it would be very difficult for him afterwards to use even wooden legs. A great many other prisoners had had their legs cut off. Others had their soft parts wounded by torture, but had received a light dressing and a thin application of mercurochrome while the fragments of their broken bone had not been properly set and had made them invalid for life.

A highlander (of the Western Plateaux) had had his ribs broken by the warder's hobnailed shoes. The ribs began to heal though some of them were still protruding. But he was packed with his mates into a van which ran at high speed, and finally his bones were broken again, crucifying him with excruating pains and a difficult respiration.

Non-surgical diseases caught by the prisoners during detention spell out ominously the harsh regime in Thieu's prisons. Not only are many serious cases not attended to but they are not even isolated. Patients whose blood pressure reaches 250/160mm have still to do hard work, are usually manhandled and thrown in solitary confinement wards for months. Many detainees get partial paralysis and encephalomalacia. Old-aged inmates are not spared. Ngo Van T., 74, a native of Cai Lay, My Tho province and Nguyen Van Th., 61, a white haired detainee from Ben Cat, Thu Dau Mot province were savagely tortured for years.

Such diseases as stomach complaint, duodenal ulcer, chronic dysentery become suddenly complicated due to lack of medical care.

Many detainees suffer from mental diseases, schizophrenia and epilepsy from blows on the head. All the women prisoners we examine have amenorrhea and serious gynaecologic diseases.

Most of the prisoners are plagued by scabies and ringworm. The lepers are left uncared for and are not isolated from other prisoners.

The way the Saigon administration hands the prisoners over to the other side shows the little regard it has for their health and living conditions. At the last minutes, on the southern bank of the Thach Han river, about 200 metres from the HQ of the four-side military team, the prisoners were still persecuted. Before the handing over, they received no food, no drinking water, were left in the sun and rain for hours running and harassed.

When they reached the northern bank of the Thach Han river many of them fainted and needed first aid care.

In one hour, the Saigon administration handed 60 prisoners lying on stretchers, and many others affected by pernicious malarian fever, were in a coma and were vomiting blood.

Before us is a pile of case-records of the prisoners having survived the "hells on earth." They are also dossiers of heinous crimes committed by the US-Thieu regime. We wonder whether those physicians in the South are aware of all this! If they are, then what do they think of it and what are they going to do about it?

Dr NGO VAN QUY
Chief of the T.72 Infirmary

The truth behind the "Tong Le Chan affair"

SINCE the cease-fire came into effect, Saigon troops stationed at Tong Le Chan had mounted series of incursions into the liberated zone with artillery, bombers and infantry. Implementing the PRG order and the Paris Agreement, the PLAF had shown utmost restraint and called for an end to cease-fire violations. The Saigon garrison, disregarding the appeal, had continued their strikes and stuck to most unreasonable demands.

In a spirit of concord the local PLAF again and again reiterated their proposal for a meeting of the local commanders of both sides. The overture was unheeded and still graver breaches committed.

Again to show their good will and humanitarian attitude, on March 27 the PRG allowed the Saigon administration to evacuate their casualties from Tong Le Chan and an agreement had been reached on a meeting of the local commanders to arrange a cease-fire in place. Taking advantage of the ensuing cease-fire the Saigon side brought in more arms and ammunition. Moreover, breaking their word, they went so far as to bomb and shell the neighbouring areas under PRG control. Such a brazen behaviour could but trigger a relevant response.

Nevertheless, at the March 31 extraordinary, meeting of the Two-Party JMC, the deputy chief of the PRG Military Delegation called for an end to all encroaching operations so that commanders at all levels of the two sides might get together and discuss the procedure of a stand still cease-fire. Forced to accept the offer the Saigon delegation demanded however that "Army corps and division" commanders meet and, first and foremost, settle "Tong Le Chan affair." At the 5th session of the JMC, the PRG delegation again raised the cease-fire in place issue and tabled a draft appeal for a complete cessation of hostilities throughout South Viet Nam.

Clearly enough, the "Tong Le Chan affair" is a typical cease-fire violation by Saigon, one of a very serious nature. Indeed, since the Paris Accord came into force, under US plans and with US backing, Saigon has been undertaking uninterrupted terrorist pacification and police actions on the PRG-controlled areas, impressing youths and victimizing people from all walks of life. Such a situation has understandably aroused widespread indignation at home and abroad. Of course, Saigon has had to pay a high price for its frantic military adventure.

The Nguyen Van Thieu administration are making so much noise about the "Tong Le Chan affair" in an attempt to dodge popular protest against their forays and dilatory tactics over the return of political detainees and all war prisoners, and to sabotage the settlement of various South Vietnamese questions. Washington has chimed in with outcries over "communist cease-fire violations."

The "Tong Le Chan affair" is nothing short of a smokescreen whipped up by Saigon and Washington. It cannot hide their violations nor the colours of the breakers of peace and national reconciliation and concord. Neither can it divert the wrath of the people at increasing American involvement since the signing of the Paris Agreement. It also points to the criminal behaviour of the warlike Saigon clique who have resigned themselves to act as US imperialists' servants to the detriment of peace and national concord in South Viet Nam.

DRVN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S STATEMENT
CONCERNING VIOLATIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENT

THE DRVN Foreign Ministry issued on April 27 a statement denouncing the US government and the Saigon administration for seriously and systematically violating the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

The statement says in part:

"... Supported and encouraged by the US, the Saigon administration has openly sabotaged the provisions on the ceasefire, conducted tens of thousands of operations to nibble at the areas controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and is carrying on the persecution and coercion of the South Viet Nam population.

It has grossly trampled upon the people's democratic liberties, stubbornly refuses to return to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam all the civilian personnel it has arrested and is detaining, and causing difficulties to the activities of the South Vietnamese Two-Party Joint Military Commission. At the Consultative Conference of the two South Vietnamese parties, the Saigon administration, which is only a creation and an instrument of US neo-colonialism, has styled itself a "constitutional and legal administration" and persists in its refusal to recognize the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. It has resorted to all perfidious manoeuvres to fool public opinion, evade the settlement of the urgent problems in South Viet Nam at present, thus preventing the conclusion of an agreement on the internal affairs of South Viet Nam.

For its part, though having to withdraw from South Viet Nam, the US government still refuses to end totally its military involvement and its interference in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam. It has left in South Viet Nam more than ten thousand military personnel disguised as civilian advisors and massively introduced into South Viet Nam armaments, munitions and war materials, and has lent a hand to the Saigon administration to undermine the ceasefire.

As regards North Viet Nam, the US government has openly sent aircraft to encroach upon the airspace of the DRVN to conduct reconnaissance, grossly violating Article 2 of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the US commitment. This is a brazen provocation to the Vietnamese people, an insolent challenge to the peace- and justice-loving public opinion in the world. The US also unilaterally suspended the removal of mines in the territorial waters, ports, harbours, and waterways of the DRVN and unilaterally suspended the meetings of the DRVN — US Joint Economic Commission, thus seriously violating Articles 2 and 21 of the Paris Agreement.

Meanwhile, the US government has feverishly intensified its war escalation in Cambodia, using B.52's to conduct extermination bombings against many densely populated areas, and sending Saigon and Thai troops to directly invade Cambodia.

The US has also used its air force to bomb again and in a very atrocious manner the territory of Laos, in disregard of the Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos.

These are brutal encroachments upon the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Cambodia and Laos and a flagrant violation of Article 20 of the Paris Agreement and Article 8 of the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam.

These very serious and systematic violations by the US government and the Saigon administration of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam prove that the US government still obdurately refuses to draw any lessons from its previous mistakes, to terminate the US military involvement in Indochina and to give up its scheme of realizing the 'Nixon doctrine' in Indochina and impose neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

To deceive public opinion and cover up its violations, the US government is whipping up a wild campaign of slanders against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The responsible personalities in the US ruling circles claimed that the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam 'flagrantly and systematically violates' the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. The US State Department has sent a note to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam trying obstinately to explain away its flagrant violations and to shift the responsibility to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The Vietnamese people resolutely reject these sophisms and slanders of the US.

The US ruling circles are trying by every means to make public opinion believe that the extremely flagrant violations of the US are just "a reply" to the "violation" on the part of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. This is an extremely odious move intended to make black white and a dark and perfidious scheme of the US aimed at appeasing the indignation of the world and American peoples at the war escalation of the US government in Cambodia and its increasing military involvement in Indochina and at the same time at paving the way for new US military adventures in Indochina.

Along with slanders, the US authorities have also issued repeated threats in an attempt to bring pressure to bear upon the people of Viet Nam and the rest of Indochina. US Defence Secretary Elliot Richardson has even cynically threatened to bomb North Viet Nam again. But all these threats are only futile efforts. Past experiences have proved that no brutal force, no insolent threats, no perfidious trick can subdue the people of Viet Nam, Laos, and Cambodia who are fighting for the independence and freedom of their countries. The peoples of the three Indochinese countries, closely united and enjoying strong sympathy and support from the the peace- and justice-loving people in the world, are certain to defend with success their fundamental national rights, and foil all wicked schemes and acts of the US and its henchmen.

The unswerving stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam consists in seriously implementing the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and firmly struggling to make the opponent side do the same so as to maintain firmly durable peace in Viet Nam, and ensure the fundamental national rights to the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination to the South Vietnamese people.

... The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam fully supports the six-point proposal made on April 25, 1973 by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and fully agrees with the RSVN PRG delegation at the Consultative Conference between the two South Vietnamese parties in rejecting the so-called "draft agreement" proposed by the Saigon administration. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam resolutely demands that the US government and Saigon administration seriously implement all provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and cease immediately their acts of violation.

The Saigon administration must positively respond to the six-point proposal of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, strictly respect the ceasefire, stop without delay the nibbling operations against the areas under the control of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, immediately stop all acts of repression, persecution, coercion and "purging" against the South Vietnamese people, return immediately and totally the Vietnamese civilian personnel it has arrested and is detaining, and ensure immediately and fully the democratic liberties of the South Vietnamese people so as to create favourable conditions for the settlement of the internal affairs of South Viet Nam, and realize the South Viet Nam population's right to self-determination.

The US government must end totally its military involvement and interference in South Viet Nam's internal affairs, cease without delay all acts of infringement on the sovereignty and territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, resume at once its obligation to remove or deactivate the mines in North Viet Nam and heal the wounds of war in the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The US government must stop immediately its war escalation in Cambodia and its bombardments in the Lao territory, scrupulously respect the independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and neutrality of Cambodia and Laos as stipulated by Article 20 of the Paris Agreement and Article 8 of the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam.

The US government should draw lessons from the past and give up the policies which have led the US into the longest, most difficult and costliest war in the history of the United States, and strictly implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. Only by this way is it possible to ensure firm peace in Viet Nam, and contribute to the defence of durable peace in Indochina and Southeast Asia and create favourable conditions for the advance toward the normalization of the relations between the United States and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The Vietnamese people and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam call on the Governments and peoples of the socialist countries, the peace- and justice-loving countries, the international democratic organizations, the world's people and the American people to increase their support and assistance to the just struggle of the Vietnamese people and to resolutely demand that the US government and the Saigon administration immediately end all their acts of violation, strictly respect and seriously implement all provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam in order to guarantee a firm peace in Viet Nam, and contribute to the defence of durable peace in Indochina, Southeast Asia and the rest of the world."

A fresh lesson for Nixon's adventure in North Viet Nam:
carcass of a downed B.52 strato-fortress

Vietnamese residents in the U.S. and West Germany protest Thieu's tour

THE recent begging tour of Nguyen Van Thieu to the US and a number of other countries was strongly opposed by the peoples and Vietnamese residents there.

In the US, on March 31, 1973 when Nguyen Van Thieu was still in fligh t, the Vietnamese Residents' Union issued a strong condemnation of his crimes against the South Vietnamese people and US scheme to interfere as in the past in the internal affairs of South Viet Nam and to use Thieu as a tool to sabotage peace in Viet Nam. The statement pointed out: The fact that the United States has sent en masse 'American civilian advisors' and shipped armaments to South Viet Nam, not only seriously violates the peace agreement on Viet Nam, but also shows the misuse of the money of the American tax-payers as well as of their love for peace, justice and freedom. It demanded that the US government and the Saigon administration strictly abide by the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, that the Nixon administration abstain from supporting Nguyen Van Thieu under any form and that democratic liberties and fundamental human rights be respected in South Viet Nam and that the patriots at present detained by the Saigon authorities be immediately released.

In West Germany, on April 8, 1973, the Vietnamese Students' and Residents' Solidarity Association launched an appeal to all Vietnamese living there and in other countries to "stigmatize Nguyen Van Thieu who, manipulated and propped up by the Americans, has strengthened his coercive machinery, and is obdurate enough as not to abolish his fascist laws, thereby seriously breaking the fundamental provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

"Mr Nguyen Van Thieu's trip to the US to beg for military and economic aid and enlist political support in order to achieve the US design and show his allegiance to the US neo-colonialist policy, was made in complete disregard for the national interests." The appeal read: "His West German jaunt can hardly conceal his intention to toe the US line and his hope to continue hoodwinking world opinion.

But his colours as a dependent, rotten and brutal ruler are not unfamiliar to the world's peoples." The Association eagerly called on Vietnamese residents to raise their voices against Nguyen Van Thieu's sabotaging peace and preventing the realization of national concord, for an end to all terrorist methods, respect for democratic liberties, realization of national reconciliation and concord, prompt meaningful consultative conferences to meet the deep aspirations of all sections of the population.

THE CAPITALIST WORLD'S PRESENT MONETARY CRISIS

AS in 1971, the recent devaluation of the American dollar was just a half-measure of a temporary nature. It cannot fundamentally settle the grave crisis of the capitalist world's monetary system in general nor that of the dollar in particular. In point of fact since its 10 per cent devaluation on Feb. 12, the latter continues to depreciate to the advantage of other currencies and gold. Successive emergency conferences of financial leaders of Western countries have so far ended with poor results with the adoption of expedients and compromises. The United States, Japan and Western Europe have unanimously agreed upon the necessity of a speedy breakthrough, but remain deeply divided over the way to overcome the crisis in the near future as well as in the long run.

As before, the US keeps on shifting the blame for the dollar's slumps on to its allies and main trade partners, and demanding from them substantial trade concession. Obviously, however, Washington's arguments are prompted by its intention to put on other countries' shoulders its own burden, rather than by any objective reality. The weakening of the dollar does not stem from any "unfair" treatment of its partners. That the depression of a country's currency reflects its economic and financial degradation is perfectly true in the case of the US at present. It had to confront a very alarming economic situation in 1972 due to serious inflation, protracted unemployment and failure of the Dec. 18, 1971 devaluation meant to impel export to produce the expected results.

In 1972 the US continued to suffer a trade defeat, even graver than before: 6.5 billion dollars, that is, three times that of 1971 (2.05 billion dollars). Equally serious was the international balance of payments whose deficit ran as high as 13 billion dollars. And, consequently, US foreign debts abroad recorded an all-time high: 80 billion dollars.

It is that prolonged and ever wider gap in the American balance of payments that has been at the bottom of the depreciation of the dollar, a currency which once ruled the roost in the world capitalist market. In other words, the US goes on spending abroad more than it earns, and to pay for the excess, it resorts to the issuance of new dollar banknotes that are guaranteed neither by gold nor a corresponding volume of goods as was the case thus far. So, what other countries expect, first and foremost, of the US is a sound balance of payments. Failing this, it would be impossible to extract the dollar from its predicament.

In practice, two devaluations of total of nearly 20 per cent in fourteen months later, the rate of the dollar on the world market arbitrarily fixed higher than its real value. Therefore, on the free market one buys an ounce of gold not at the price fixed at 42.22 dollars, but at 80-90 dollars or even more, depending on the time and the place. The selling at a loss of dollars after the mid-Feb. devaluation has led many countries to close down their stock exchanges. It was not without reason that a French financial expert, Mr Jacques Rueff, once again urged that the US raise the official price of gold to 70 dollars, i.e. that it further devalue the dollar so that its price corresponds to its real value *(Le Monde*, Feb. 2): all that spells out clearly the downhill trend of US economy and finance.

Another characteristic of the disturbances in the monetary system of the Western world lies in that they have been taking place in the context of the re-disposition of new economic forces within this world. Behind these interminable upheavals, a trade war — a fairly tough one — looms more and more ominously, a war in which the US has to deal with ever stronger opponents: Japan and West Germany. According to the very statistics of the US Department of Commerce, the 1972 US trade deficit amounted to 4,000 million dollars with Japan and 1,000 million dollars with West Germany in spite of unprecedentedly drastic protectionist measures taken since April 1971.

In the current monetary dispute, it is the United States that has been forced to devalue its currency and not its creditors to revalue theirs, a thing that Washington has been pressuring them — Japan in the first place — into doing for quite a time. Given the increasing strength of its competitors, the US can no longer use arbitrary measures as toward the close of 1971 when it imposed a 10% surcharge on imported goods, and compelled its rivals to officially revalue their currencies. Washington is presently seeking to involve Western Europe in the battle to to thwart Japanese expansionism, which is no easy thing. There is no denying that Western Europe fears Japan's competition but a harsher fact is that it has to bear the burden of the "dollar flood" triggered by the US export of inflation, the US sway and the crisis of the capitalist monetary system which is essentially the dollar's—the cause of so many economic and financial difficulties. Moreover, Japan does not stand idly, witness its refusal to revalue the *yen* officially and as promptly as Washington wanted.

One can foresee a temporary compromise in the immediate future between the richest countries of the capitalist world on the monetary and commercial fields. Surely, nevertheless, instead of bringing the trade war to an end, this arrangement is bound to make it eventually fiercer.

One can also anticipate that the monetary crisis will not find a solution overnight, especially a solution along the Washington line. The position and strength of the US have so downgraded that it can no longer settle the affairs of the countries by its own laws.

There is no indication that the Nixon administration has relinquished its expansionist and aggressive designs, economically and militarily. Hence US spending abroad is maintained at a very high level. Beside, bogged down in Viet Nam over the last ten years, the United States has damaged its own position in the very capitalist world, and has been economically and technically outpaced by other countries. The best proof of this is the inability of American goods to compete with US "junior partners" in the US itself. In the foreseeable future there is no prospect for the dollar to recover its position. Tremendous difficulties lie ahead of the US if it persists in its expansionist and aggressive policy, for its capabilities can no longer effectively serve its purposes.

The golden era of US hegemony on this planet has become a thing of the past.

VAN DUC

THE PRG 6-POINT...

(Continued from page 1)

WHILE the PRG 6 points open the way to a prompt settlement of South Viet Nam's internal problems true to the spirit of the Paris Agreement, the Saigon draft only serves the purposes of US neo-colonialism and betrays the international commitments duly taken and signed.

Their relationship is reminiscent of that of the former PRG 10 points and the Nixon 8 points.

The former presented by Mr Tran Buu Kiem at the 16th plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam on May 8, 1969, upheld the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination and a lasting peace as well and raised the basic principle of the enforcement of democratic liberties and achievement of national concord. Their principles and essence were eventually instilled into the Paris Agreement.

In reply to this important peace initiative, Mr Nixon advanced on May 14, 1969 a counter program in 8 points which took up the issues of the pull-out of all non-South Vietnamese forces from South Viet Nam and of an election to be organized according to a procedure previously agreed to by the parties concerned and under international supervision.

Nearly four years have passed by. The US administration, checked in an aggression stigmatized by the whole world and the American people had to withdraw all the truly non-South Vietnamese troops, i.e. the US expeditionary corps and the soldiers of US allies.

This operation having ended on March 29, 1973 and left the South Vietnamese to shape their own fate, the Saigon regime was uninspired to rehash Mr Nixon's out-dated tune with some addition of its own, i.e., manipulated and anti-democratic elections. Not unexpectedly, the Saigon proposal objected to by the PRG soon came under a cross fire from the South Vietnamese, the Vietnamese people as a whole and public opinion in the US and the world.

The Saigon regime has temporarily with its obstruction moves stalled the Consultative Conference's progress. But it will not be able to turn back the wheel of history and keep up tension in South Viet Nam.

The striving of the South Vietnamese people and of the Vietnamese as a whole for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Act has an unassailable legal basis. This has been strengthened by the PRG 6 points which are likely to win over the masses and the great majority of the members of the Saigon administration and army. The effort still has many obstacles and difficulties to surmount but its success is a foregone conclusion.

XUAN KHANH

Cambodia:

Honours list in March

ACCORDING to *AKI*, the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces and people in March killed, wounded and captured 16,000 enemy including 63 officers. Among the 3,500 prisoners were 200 agents of "pacification" teams. One US military advisor was killed.

The liberation forces seized 3,600 assorted weapons including 8 105mm cannon, 75 mortars, 151 machine guns, 156 M.79s, over 500 AR.15s, 123 radio sets, 63 trucks and over 820 tons of war material.

They also destroyed and set aflame 4 105mm cannon, 40 military vehicles, 27 tanks, 13 radio sets, 16 war vessels, 18 amphibious troop carriers, 10 big cargo ships, 54 posts, 400 barracks, and 14 bridges.

Over 2,000 people were liberated and 3,000 bags of rice recovered from the raiders. 300 Phnom Penh troops went over to the liberation forces, bringing along their weapons.

Therefore, in the first three months of this year, the Cambodian National People's Liberation Armed Forces killed, wounded or captured 42,300 Lon Nol troops, shot down or damaged 31 aircraft, seized or destroyed 154 military vehicles, sank or damaged 141 warships and military transport vessels, and levelled 250 military posts and positions.

The Cambodian liberation forces also made a big haul of weapons and military equipment.

The CNLAF grow stronger with their victories

Laos:

We shall fight to a finish at the Lao people's side

SIXTY days have elapsed since Feb. 21, date of the signing of the Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos, but bombs have not ceased falling and fire-arms have not stopped clattering there. The mild, peace-loving, pluri-national people of Laos continue to be victims of the aggression of the US imperialists under the form of a "special war" for so many years.

The good will and serious attitude of the Lao Patriotic Front in the implementation of the Agreement is beyond doubt, since it represents a momentous success of the patriotic forces adding to the gains of the Lao revolution after a quarter century of heroic and persistent struggle, and opens up bright prospects for the achievement of peace and national concord wished for by all nationalities in Laos. This Agreement has been warmly welcomed by the world's progressives who pray for its strict execution.

The Agreement has been strictly carried in the last sixty days by the Lao patriotic forces which have fully observed the cease-fire order by the Supreme Command of the Lao Liberation Forces issued immediately after the ceasefire stipulated in the Agreement came into force. The Lao Patriotic Front quickly engaged in negotiations with the Vientiane administration in an effort to put into effect, together with that Administration, the various military and political provisions of the accord. It even complied with an American request for the release ahead of schedule of all US military and civilian personnel captured in Laos.

As for the US and Vientiane administration, their evil intentions and criminal deeds connot be concealed by any amount of slanders heaped on the Patriotic Forces. In the last sixty days, nearly all territories under the latter's control have been subjected to incessant reconnaissance flights and bombing raids by more than 4,000 sorties of US aircraft (including B.52) taking off from US air bases in Thailand; the most furious strikes took place on April 16 and 17 last. Over 250 artillery, commando and infantry actions have been mounted by various kinds of US-supported troops, including the Vientiane Army, the Thai mercenaries (who should have been withdrawn from Laos under the terms of the Agreement) and the Vang Pao special forces (which should have been disbanded). They included large-scale operations by dozens of battalions with artillery and armour support against the liberated areas of Thakhet (April 1973), Thavieng—Tha-thom (from April 16-17 up to now).

Meanwhile at US instigation, the ultra-reactionaries within the Vientiane administration have been endeavouring to sap negotiations between the two Lao parties, dodge discussions for the settlement of concrete military issues to cover their attacks against the areas under the control of patriotic forces and postpone the formation of the Provisional National Political Consultative Council.

As rightly pointed out by the April 23 statement by the Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front: "In the last two months, the US and Vientiane administrations have continuously and systematically undermined the Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos. As a result, the Lao situation has not been really normalized, the newly-re-established peace is being threatened and Lao blood shed." Nobody is unaware that the root of this situation lies in US military involvement in Laos and in other Indochinese countries. Having sustained heavy setbacks, the US expeditionary corps has been forced to withdraw from South Viet Nam, but US imperialism is still bent on maintaining its tools for the achievement of neo-colonialism—its client administrations in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. The US war in its doomed "Laotianized," "Khmerized" and "Vietnamized" forms is still going on with the support of US air force, weapons and dollars. But the balance of forces has been definitely tipped in favour of the Indochinese liberation forces. The Lao people brought together under the banner of the Lao Patriotic Front, and enjoying the support of all progressives of the world, will surely foil all dark designs and all crimes of the US imperialists and their henchmen, and achieve their aims namely peace and national concord. The South Vietnamese warmly hail the good will and serious attitude of the Lao patriotic front and its strict observance of all provisions of the Agreement on Restoring Peace and Achieving National Concord in Laos. We totally associate ourselves with the brotherly Lao people's fight and pledge to unite with them until final victory and the complete realization of peace and national concord in Laos as well as in South Viet Nam.

DINH BA

Here and There

THIEU'S PHOBIAS

They are many.

First the phobia of colours, particurarly of the red and blue. It is to be recalled that there was a time, before the signing of the Paris Agreement, when he clamped down for the second time a ban on the import of all cloth in those two colours, of any quality or from any origin. All orders for it had to be cancelled, if such kinds of cloth, regarded as "war goods," had not yet been imported. If they had, they must be dyed another colour. It was to prevent the people from making communist flags, and the ban had been already imposed since October 1972 (*Reuter*, *AFP*, January 5).

This twice-enforced stringent restriction, prompted by the zeal of the South Vietnamese people in stitching NFL flags, in spite of all the precautions of Saigon Cerberuses, was not so drastic as it was intended to be. First, one needs no great talent to dye red or blue any cloth of any colour. Then, to be more consistent, one must also prohibit those colours on all things of current use. Lastly, the NFL banner has been engraved in the hearts and minds of an entire people and is flown and honoured in many a place where the presence of Thieu is anathema and the latter does know it.

Some say that their helplessness and rage before this harsh fact is an unmistakable indication of their imminent downfall. Anyhow, it must be a terrible torment for them to see those colours of their pet aversion glow in the peaceful skies of South Viet Nam and in the vivifying heat of its sun.

THE PHOBIA OF THE PRESS

AFP filed from Saigon that three foreign correspondents had been arrested at nightfall on April 26 by Saigon police North of Rach Gia. They were Ron Moreau of *Newsweek*, Chantale Charpentier and Olivier Todd of the *Nouvel Observateur*. They had visited an area under the PRG control in Ca Mau. A Thieu paper revealed that the Saigon administration had been wanting them since April 20. A few days earlier, three other foreign newspapermen (2 Americans and 1 Mexican) had been also apprehended by the Saigon police at Cai Lay (My Tho) after their return from a PRG locality.

Why does Thieu have such a fear of newsmen having visited the Liberated zone? Because they are bound to tell the truth about the revolutionary government which is likely to bring out Thieu's unpopularity and breaches of the Paris Agreement.

THE PHOBIA OF RELEASED PRISONERS

It is also known that the Thieu regime has concentrated at Da Nang rest centre the 500 POW's recently set free by the PRG, to cut them off from the rest of the people, thereby keeping them from disseminating any fact about the liberated areas. On April 4, 1973, Saigon military police opened fire on them, killing private Bui Vinh and wounding six others.

The Saigon press is strongly critical of Thieu's move to tie talkative tongues. But it must look out. The tribunal of the third military sector sentenced only last week the directors-managers of the weekly *Dan Moi* and of the daily *Tranh Thu* to one year's imprisonment with stay of execution and a fine of one million Saigon piastres, on charge of "having published articles damaging national security and public order and praising the communists."

Someone has also commented that Thieu's position is a pitiable one. He is afraid of everything: NFL flags, foreign and Saigonese journalists, his own men returned by the PRG, the masses under his control... One day, he will probably become scared of his own shadow. But what can one do about such a desperate case of derangement? Advise him to remove the sources of his phobias by facing the hard fact and stopping acting against the people's and the nation's interests? It would be tantamount to recommending him to ceasing being... himself.

HUONG NAM

IN BRIEF

+ On April 2, in an interview with the Chargés d'Affaires of the RSVN and the DRVN in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Vice-Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs Ho Dam said :

"The Korean people strongly condemn the treacherous deeds of the US imperialists, and insist that the United States and the Saigon administration strictly implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. The Korean people highly appreciate and actively support all persistent efforts of the PRG of the Republic of South Viet Nam aimed at completely solving the Viet-Nam problem at this new juncture, and fully support the sound positions of the DRVN Government expounded in the statement of March 30 and of the RSVN PRG in the statement of April 1st at the ending of the 60-day period for the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam."

+ Recently, the chairman of the Polish Film Workers' Association, J. Kavalerowicz, has sent a message to their SVN Liberation counterparts, expressing his admiration for the heroism and self-abnegation of the cinema workers and people of South Viet Nam in the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation.

The message said : "The pages written with the blood of Vietnamese patriots will for ever remain one of the finest pages in the history of the struggle of the nations. The courage and indomitable spirit of the Vietnamese people have commanded deep admiration from the whole progressive mankind."

+ The joint communiqués between the Soviet Union and Sweden, between Cuba and Czechoslovakia and between Algeria and Somali have reaffirmed full support to the striving of the Vietnamese people for the strict implementation of all the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

+ In an interview with the RSVN Chargé d'Affaires in the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen on April 2, 1973, President Salem Robya Ali said : "The victory of the Vietnamese people in the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, was a common victory of all nations in the world battling for independence and freedom. The national front, government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen sternly condemn the United States and the Saigon administration's serious violations of the provisions of the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam.

+ Of late, on the occasion of the visit of Minister Nguyen Van Hieu to Italy, the national leading committee of the Italy-Viet Nam Committee presented to the South Vietnamese people a sum of 10,000,000 lires contributed by various localities in Italy in the recent past.

+ On April 7 and 8, 1973, various Support Viet Nam organizations of Northern Europe including the Support Viet Nam Groups of Sweden, the Norway Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam, the Iceland Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam and the Viet Nam Movement in Denmark called a joint session in Oslo (Norway). They unanimously adopted a common program which said among other things : "So far the Peace Agreement has not been strictly observed. More concretely speaking, the Thieu regime still refuses to free the persons who have been detained for political reasons. Military personnel in the guise of "civilian advisers" are creating many obstacles to the implementation of the Agreement. We urge the United States to pull out immediately all its civilian advisers and Nguyen Van Thieu to release immediately all the political prisoners and cease all encroachments upon the liberated zone."

+ The Viet Nam Week organized by the Norway Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam took on very diversified forms. During the week more than thirty meetings were held with the participation of broad masses of Norwegians belonging to different organizations and trade unions in the country. In addition, there were briefing meetings on the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, shows of Vietnamese films, exhibitions of Vietnamese pictures and paintings, distribution of Vietnamese newspapers, documents, poems and collections of goods for Viet Nam...

20,000 leaflets on the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and its violations by the United States and the Saigon administration, urging Norway to recognize the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the release of still detained patriots... have been widely distributed in Oslo.

The Norway Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam also put out 2,000 pamphlets on Viet Nam which were sold out in the Viet Nam Week.

+ Over 15,000 Norwegian kroners were collected in the Viet Nam Week in Oslo alone, increasing to about 350,000 kroners the total sum obtained so far since the launching of the *Half A Million Kroners for Viet Nam Campaign.*

+ In response to the Viet Nam Week initiated by the Norway Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam, in the same period, many other similar organizations stepped up their activities. With contributions from the trade union members, the workers at various factories in Norway have raised about 950,000 Norwegian kroners for the Viet Nam fund.

+ Recently, the Support Viet Nam Co-ordination Committee of Yugoslavia has decided to present the RSVN PRG the complete equipment of a modern hospital and also facilities for a school of about 200 pupils.

+ On the evening of April 4, large numbers of members of various US progressive organizations including the Women Strike for Peace, the Youth Against War and Fascism and the Indian Americans movement together with many other organizations staged a big demonstration at Time Square in New York and approved a petition to the US Congress protesting the US government's continued abetting of the Thieu administration's violations of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

The petition pointed out that Thieu is holding about 200,000 political prisoners in various prisons in South Viet Nam. Thieu has ordered his police to arrest anyone engaged in political activities whether he is a neutralist or an opponent of the Thieu regime. This is a brutal breach of the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and puts up serious hurdles to the formation of the democratic government and the establishment of a durable peace in Viet Nam, the petition stressed.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh visits Korea

At the invitation of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam headed by Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, member of the NFL CC, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the RSVN PRG paid an official friendship visit to the Democratic Republic People's of Korea from April 12 to 21, 1973.

During her stay in the DPRK, Minister Nguyen Thi Binh and her party were received by President Kim Il Sung who had a cordial talk with them.

The delegation of the NFL and RSVN PRG visited Man De Kieng, the native place of President Kim Il Sung and a number of economic and cultural establishments in Pyongyang, North Hwang Hai and Kuesong city, and held cordial talks with Ho Dam, Vice-Premier of the Administration Council, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the DPRK. The two Ministers signed a joint communiqué pointing out :

"The Korean party warmly greets the heroic South Vietnamese people who have, under the correct leadership of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, conducted for many years a valiant resistance against the US aggression, for national salvation, shattering the US imperialists' scheme of aggression, forcing them to sign the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam and the International Act on Viet Nam, and to withdraw all their aggressive troops from South Viet Nam. That is a great victory of the Vietnamese people, a common victory of the Indochinese peoples who are closely united in the struggle against their common enemy, a victory of the internationalist solidarity among the socialist countries, the national liberation movement and the peace- and justice-loving forces all over the world.

The Korean side resolutely supports the statement of April 1st, 1973 of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the statement of March 30, 1973 of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. It welcomes the stand of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam of seriously implementing the Paris Agreement, and resolutely condemns the US and the Saigon administration for seriously and systematically violating the provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

The delegation of South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam expresses to esteemed Chairman Kim Il Sung, the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government and people the profound gratitude of the South Vietnamese people, the NFL and Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam for their warm support and precious assistance to the Vietnamese people's resistance. It also express its firm belief that with the noble internationalism, this support and assistance will be increased in the new stage of the struggle of the Vietnamese people.

The South Viet Nam side, now as before, fully supports the just struggle of the fraternal Korean people, resolutely supports the correct guide-line of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the peaceful and sovereign unification of the Fatherland, and the letter of the 2nd session of Supreme People's Conference of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 5th Legislature, addressed to the National Assemblies and Governments of various countries in the world. It energetically condemns the US imperialists for maintaining their occupation troops in South Korea under the absurd pretext of coping with the "danger of aggression by the North against the South" and for deliberately intervening in the internal affairs of the Korean people and committing military provocations against Korea, thus causing tension in that region.

The South Viet Nam side resolutely demands that the US imperialists give up their scheme of abusing the name of the United Nations, withdraw immediately and completely the US aggressive troops under the UN banner from South Korea, cut immediately all military aid to the South Korean administration, renounce the scheme of using Koreans to fight Koreans dissolve the "UN Commission for the Rehabilitation and Unification of Korea," and let the Koreans settle themselves the problem of unifying Korea without foreign interference. The South Viet Nam side firmly demands that the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea be represented at any discussion on the Korean question at the United Nations."

Parisians hailing the PRG after the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam

SOUTH VIET NAM — CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION